

REMARKS

Claims 16-24 remain in this application. Claims 1-15 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The claim amendments above are made following consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner in sections 2-4 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. All of the claims in this application should now be in proper form.

Independent claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with all claims depending thereon, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0026091 to Nakane et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,378,043 to Viano et al. Reconsideration is requested.

The Nakane et al. apparatus does not include an element aligned in a seat back as claim 16 requires; this is effectively conceded by the Examiner in section 15 on page 6 of the Office Action. While the impact target or plate 10 and alignment members 12 of the Viano et al. headrest are identified by the Examiner as a U-shaped profile in section 18 on page 7 of the Office Action, these elements do not have a base, sides, and open side oriented as claim 16 now requires. It follows, therefore, that the Nakane et al. and Viano et al. disclosures, considered together, do not suggest a motor vehicle seat comprising, in addition to the other elements specified, an element, aligned in a seat back, having a base facing the vehicle passenger, a pair of sides that receive the connection element, and an open side oriented away from the vehicle passenger to an area behind the motor vehicle seat as claim 16 now requires.

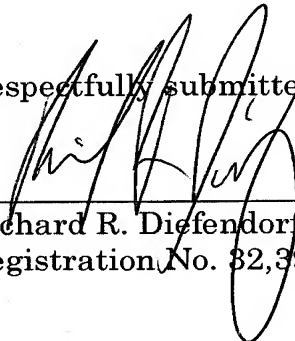
It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 above is patentable over the Nakane et al. and Viano et al. disclosures. The rest of the claims in this application are dependent claims and are considered patentable as well.

This application should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56078US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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